

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A recording medium holder comprising:

a holding unit operable to hold ~~hold~~, in an ~~electrically~~ connection, one or more portable recording mediums in electrical connection thereto, each of the portable recording medium ~~mediums being readable and writable in the connection and storing therein~~ digital information or a set including digital information and index information relating to the digital information;

an input unit operable to receive an input selection from a user;

a selecting unit operable to select ~~select~~, based on the input selection received from the user, one portable recording medium from the one or more portable recording mediums ~~held in the connection;~~

a judging unit operable to judge whether ~~an~~ access is allowed to the digital information stored in the selected portable recording medium ~~is allowed~~; and

a displaying unit operable to display the digital information or the index information recorded in the selected portable recording medium when the judging unit judges that ~~the~~ access is allowed.

2-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A recording medium holder according to claim 1, further comprising:

a medium-type identification unit operable to identify a medium type of the selected portable recording medium; and

an authentication unit operable to, when the identified medium type indicates that the selected portable recording medium requires mutual authentication, perform mutual authentication with the selected portable recording medium,

wherein said judging unit judges whether access to the digital information is allowed based on a result of the mutual authentication.

14. (New) A recording medium holder according to claim 1, further comprising:

an input unit operable to receive an input password from the user;

a password storing unit storing therein a device password in advance;

a medium-type identification unit operable to identify a medium type of the selected portable recording medium; and

a password checking unit operable to, when the identified medium type indicates that the selected portable recording medium requires a device password verification, perform the device password verification by checking whether the input password from the user matches the device password,

wherein said judging unit judges whether access to the digital information is allowed based on a result of the device password verification.

15. (New) A recording medium holder according to claim 1,

wherein each of the portable recording mediums includes a password storing unit that stores therein a medium password in advance; and

wherein the recording medium holder further comprises:

an input unit operable to receive an input password from the user;

a medium-type identification unit operable to identify a medium type of the selected portable recording medium; and

a password checking unit operable to, when the identified medium type indicates that the selected portable recording medium requires a medium password verification, perform the medium password verification by checking whether the input password from the user matches the medium password,

wherein said judging unit judges whether access to the digital information is allowed based on a result of the medium password verification.